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General Psychology

1/30/2022

1. Why did behaviorists commonly use animals in their experiments?

Behaviorists commonly used animals in their experiments because they believed that studying behavior in a controlled and observable manner would provide insights into human behavior as well. Animals were easier to control and observe than humans and they did not have beliefs, biases, and emotions that could interfere with the results. Additionally, animal behavior could be easily manipulated through reinforcement and punishment, which made it a useful tool for testing theories of behaviorism.

2. What three features are central to Carl Rogers's client-centered therapy? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Three features central to Carl Rogers's client centered therapy are, unconditional positive regard: accepting the client for who they are without judgment. Empathy: the therapist tries to understand the client's feelings and perspectives. Congruence: the therapist is genuine and honest with the client. I agree because these features are important in creating a supportive therapeutic relationship and promoting personal growth and self awareness in the client.

3. Who is Noam Chomsky? Why is he important?

Noam Chomsky is a prominent linguist and philosopher. He has made significant contributions to the study of language acquisition, the structure of language, and the nature of mind. He is important because of his revolutionary theories on language and the mind, which challenged behaviorists and stimulus-response theories of the time and advanced the study of language as a unique human ability. Chomsky's work has also had a significant impact on fields such as cognitive psychology, philosophy and education.

4. Describe Pavlov's classical conditioning experiment.

Pavlov's classical conditioning experiment involved pairing a neutral stimulus, such as the sound of a bell, with a naturally occurring, unconditioned stimulus, such as food. Over time, the neutral stimulus became associated with the unconditioned stimulus, and the mere presentation of the neutral stimulus was enough to elicit the same response as the unconditioned stimulus, such as salivation. This demonstrated that classical conditioning could be used to produce a learned response. In Pavlov's experiment, the bell became a conditioned stimulus, and the salivation became a conditioned response. The experiment demonstrated the basic principles of classical conditioning and provided insights into how learning can occur through the association of stimuli and responses.

5. How did B. F. Skinner study the effect of reinforcement and punishment on behavior?

B.F Skinner studied the effect of reinforcement and punishment on behavior using operant conditioning. He placed animals, such as pigeons and rats, in a controlled environment, known as a Skinner Box, and observed how they responded to different reinforcement and punishment schedules. He altered the frequency and timing of positive reinforcement, such as food rewards, and negative reinforcement, such as electric shocks, to see how it affected their behavior. His findings showed that reinforcement and punishment can be used to shape and modify behavior.